

1st. that a debt of gratitude is due to those who achieved our independence.

2d. That Congress had not fulfilled their bargain with those officers and soldiers, that is to say, that upon fair and strict calculation, there is something due to them by contract.

Strong as the claims of those officers and soldiers are acknowledged to be, there are circumstances which your memorialists beg leave to recall to the minds of your Honorable Body, which give to their application, as they humbly believe, a still stronger title to the public consideration.

When the war commenced, Congress had not a dollar in their treasury, nor the means of commanding one. Those who engaged at that time could not have been influenced in the slightest degree by motives of interest. They suffered every species of privation, and thousands perished for want of necessaries. No officer could have kept up a decent appearance without the aid of his private resources—officers commanding regiments must have spent fortunes. It was by these men, however, that the battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill were won, that Ticonderoga, St. Johns, Montreal and the rest of Canada down to Quebec were taken—that the British were expelled from Boston—that the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Bennington and Saratoga were gained—Burgoyne and his army captured—the British and Tories at King's Mountain taken by Shelby and his volunteers, and all the British forts and garrisons in the western country taken by Clark and his associates.

But you have read what is called the history of the Revolution, and have heard of these and other events. The men who achieved them did it without pay and without clothing, and often, very often, without food.

We knew that the United States had no means of paying, or feeding, or clothing us, and we knew that if our efforts should fail of success, our reward would be poverty and ignominious death, if the vengeance of tyrants could stamp with ignominy the virtuous efforts of freemen—we were not appalled by this perspective, nay, we were stimulated to more patient endurance of privations, and to more desperate exertions.

Before 1780, these and similar events, and more, the unrelenting perseverance manifested by our citizens under the severest trials, gave us reputation in Europe—reputation produced sympathy and gained us credit and allies. The